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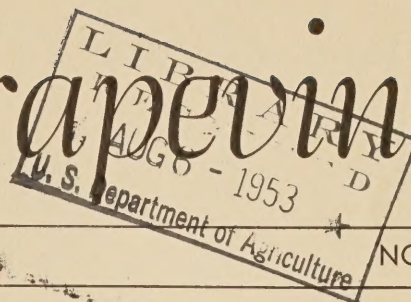


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# The *Evans & Reeves*

Los Angeles, Calif.

# Grapevine



VOL. 4

JULY 1953

NO. 3

## IT'S TIME FOR . . .

Reviewing the inevitable musts of summer garden maintenance as well as calling to attention certain fine ornamentals which can be added at this time

CHRYSANTHEMUMS can be cut back for the last time toward the end of the month — preferably to not more than eight inches — and fed well, and watered copiously from then on. (This does not apply of course to the little summer-flowering cushion Mums which have been blooming since May, which are simply sheared when flowers fade). Feed with a good well-balanced organic fertilizer, liquid or powder, which contains high phosphoric acid as well as plenty of nitrogen. Add a little Irontone if the leaves aren't a good dark green. Feed the ROSES again, with the same ingredients. And SPRAY THE ENTIRE GARDEN with Malathion or Chlordane liquid 25 percent—this spraying especially for caterpillars. If you have thrip and spider mites which syringing and general spray don't get, try Vapotone. Watch weekly for LAWN MOTHS—we have remedies for that pest.

For vacant spaces in the mixed flower border add ASTER FRIKARTI (two feet apart) for lavender blue two feet high; MORAEA IRIDIODES or M. CATENULATA for graceful pointed leaves and pure white iris-like flowers with blue and yellow eyes, the former four feet, the latter two feet; SALVIA PITCHERI for tall very clear blue spikes; STOKESIA CYANEA for 18 inch high clumps of lavender-blue aster-like blossoms; and DWARF DAHLIAS out of quart cans so you can select the particular color required (two feet

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## PLANTSMAN'S PILGRIMAGE

## DUTCH TREAT

Phillip Chandler (P. E. C.), salesman extraordinary, is currently touring Europe. His comments, horticultural and otherwise so interested us, that we are publishing excerpts from his communications so that our readers, too, may enjoy his impressions of the continent.

Leaving Brussels for the Netherlands on a cloudy June morning one feels the air is so damp he could wash his hands by simply rubbing them together. At Antwerp the sky and the water merge — the River Schelde, the canals, the boats, the umbrellas and the streaming passengers. Later the rain slackens and one watches out the ample windows of the spotless electric train the green dripping countryside with its high-cut poplars and plane trees. Everywhere, around every farmhouse, garden, stable, are giant shrubs or small trees of Elderberry in full bloom (*Sambucus*), and the most floriferous *Philadelphus* imaginable. The blossoms are in greater profusion than on our *Philadelphus*, the bushes are larger, and the perfume is stronger. Every house however humble has its *Philadelphus*, *Sambucus*, climbing roses (a pale pink climber called New Dawn I've never seen in the States, although I was told it is a McFarland rose, is the most beautiful and fragrant with the flossiest foliage), its copper beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica atropurpurea*) are among the most beautiful trees in Europe and in Holland they are everywhere, even used as clipped hedges, and sometimes combined effectively with a silver willow of great delicacy and contrast. . . .

We passed through Rotterdam, the Hague, Delft, Leiden, Haarlem, Amsterdam, and east to Amersvoort, and northeast to Zwolle. There this traveller was met by the owner of the famous Royal Moerheim Nurseries of Dedemsvaart which is still farther east, only 10 miles from the German frontier. This is one of the largest ornamental nurseries in Europe, and one day is insufficient to cover it. The firm is especially noted for roses, ornamental shrubs, rhododendrons and azaleas, and hardy perennials and alpine. Among the perennials one is especially impressed with the nearly forty named varieties of delphiniums, the endless lupines, both *Lupinus polyphyllus* and the famous Russell hybrids. There were also numerous summer-

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# Hugh Evans

Few plants are contented with a hot sun constantly beating down on the ground above their feeding roots, and this is particularly the case in shallow soils, of which we have more than our share. The average shrub is a far better and healthier specimen where its branches sweep and protect the ground from the sun's rays; even the trees and shrubs of the dry savannahs, the African veldt, and Australian bush, are protected by their fellows, and by undershrubs, by herbage, grasses etc.

Because a plant revels with its head in the sunshine, it is no indication that it endures with complacency, having its base and roots roasted; observe for instance how our own native shrubs on the hills are shaded and protected from the hot sun by all their neighbors, so far as their roots are concerned. It is obvious too, that a plant whose branches cover the ground around it, will take considerably less water and endure more drought than will the same plant which is trained up as a standard. If, for any reason, there is an objection to the plants being grown in such a fashion, then by all means the ground should be well covered by mulch which will keep the feeding roots cool.

## SOUGHT SEED, SOWED SAME

### Pterotropia's New

In our pursuit of handsome-foliage plants we have constantly returned to the *Aralia* family for its many infinitely varied species which, though they come from far corners of the world have so graciously acclimated themselves in Southern California. The roll is long; well over a dozen genera can ornament our gardens, many of them we have been the first to offer locally. Now we are pleased to announce still another of this populous family: *PTEROTROPIA PINNATA*, a fair-sized tree with branch-like leaves (three feet long) of 13 or more large leaflets, increasingly tomentose with age.

Impressed by the vigorous growth of two lone specimens locally, we sought seed, sowed seed, and now have a crop of sturdy plants in five gallon size (\$7.50) which will progress more or less on the order of *Aralia chinensis*, a single trunk with the branch-like leaves up to ten feet, then forking or branching upward as a slender upright tree.

In reasonable soil, *Pterotropia* will grow into an interesting specimen tree, eyecatching with its tremendous compound green-above and cream-below leaves and open structure with which to display them to advantage.

## IT'S TIME FOR . . .

(Continued from front page)

apart). Two extra dwarf species of *HYPERICUM*, both evergreen perennials, we recommend — *H. repens*, flat, creeping to one and one half feet across, gray-green, tiny yellow flowers; and *H. coris* to one foot high and across; both these Southern Europeans fill a definite need in small gardens and should be better known. Another uncommon form of a common plant is a *DWARF CLUMPING GERANIUM*, with small green-and-white leaves, one foot high and across, impervious to adversity the year around. All 85 cents to \$1.25 gallon cans.

For shade we call attention once again to the ever-serviceable pink and white *IMPATIENS* (or other colors) 15 cents to \$1.25; *BROWALLIA* for sprawling blue — 50 cents a dozen from flats; *TORENIA* for upright blue and violet, ten inches — 50 cents a dozen; the incomparable *TUBEROUS BEGONIA* in assorted sizes and colors from 85 cents; and *STREPTOCARPUS HYBRIDS*, *Gloxinia*-like perennials for shade and perfect drainage, in deep blue, rosy red, and white, 50 and 75 cents.

And a most ornamental tropical tree not too large for small grounds, is the magnificent semi-evergreen *RAUWOLFIA SAMANENSIS*, a mature example of which may be seen in our own front garden about fourteen years from seed. This subject also makes stunning box or tub material for the tropical effect in full sun.

(P. E. C.)

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## THE WINNERS!

The new Fuchsias displayed in the naming contest last month can be christened at last with the following prize-winning names: Number one, "Blue Petticoat," suggested by Mrs. Dorothy Break; number two, "Tempress," Edith Wishny; number three, "Carousel," Sophia Bliven. You are invited to see these beautiful introductions as well as all our other Fuchsias which are still in brilliant bloom.



# Dutch Treat

(Continued from front page)

flowering primula (*Primula Moerheimi* being a fine strain of their own). The bulb fields were of course finished, except for Anemones many acres of which were still at peak of color. Outstanding ornamentals envied by a visiting Californian included *Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea nana* (2 feet), *Clematis recta*, *Rhodohypoxis Baueri*, *Tropaeolum polyphyllum*, prostrate *Anchusa caespitosa* - (very blue), *Lonicera tragaphylla*, *Prunus avium contorta* (sensational), *Malva moschata alba*, and so on.

On June 25 I was to catch train for Hamburg at 8 A. M. I caught a train at 8 A. M., but on wrong platform so had to spend the day in the nearest stop which was Amersvoort, Holland. . . .

Amersvoort is a beautiful old town in a most beautiful part of Holland, all of which, that I saw, is beautiful. After about an hour of wandering around I asked directions of a middle-aged gentleman who not only understood what I was talking about but who formerly was a nurseryman in Minneapolis! He insisted upon my being his guest for the day. Had lunch and tea with him and his family; and Mr. Baars and I walked all over the town, out to Doorn past the last residence of the former Kaiser, through fields, over canals, through gardens, fifteenth-century houses etc., and finally I took him and Mrs. Baars to dinner at the best restaurant in town under great limes and chestnuts overlooking a green-banked canal. For dinner we had (for \$1.72 apiece American dough) crisp fried eel, consomme with meat balls, Dutch bread toast with balls of sweet butter, sweetbreads wrapped with what looked like Canadian bacon and smothered in mushrooms, new peas, potatoes whipped and toasted to look like well-browned meringue, tiny biscuits with more sweet butter balls, salad of water cress and plum tomatoes (yellow) with clear dressing and grated Dutch cheese, and



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### O Tannenbaum!

At the outset, our plant of the month may seem ill-chosen for July as we have selected the New Zealand Christmas Tree, *METROSIDEROS TOMENTOSA*, as our topic. However, consider the reversed seasons found south of the equator, and you will understand the selection of this tree in July in our latitude, for bright red staminous flowers which deck the grey-green foliated tree at this season present a festive sight indeed.

This is one instance in which we must ask you to go elsewhere if you'd like to "see what you're getting" for *Metrosideros* makes a complete transformation as it grows, so what you buy in the can resembles not at all what you'll have later on! And the best place to view this New Zealander in flower now is the street planting along Fourth Street between San Vicente and Montana in Santa Monica, where perseverance (for that it takes!) has made standard trees out of this usually low-branching tree. Though *Metrosideros* can be grown as a large shrub because of its relatively slow growth, it will eventually become a good sized tree. Specimens grown without pruning can be seen in Palisades Park at Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica.

One of the great virtues of this attractive tree for us is its joie de vivre in the face of salt spray and sandy soil where it simply thrives, making it a most desirable subject for seaside homes. It will, however, resist only a few degrees of frost, again indicating a coastal situation. Sturdy yet-to-be-transformed plants in five gallon cans are \$4.

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a large bottle of white dry wine called Cotreaux Varois blanc. . . .

I was met in Hamburg by an assistant from the International Horticultural Exhibition, about which I can and shall write at greater length.

*New!*

# *Bougainvillea Temple Fire*

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